

July 1, 1965

Dr. Harry H. Wasserman  
Department of Chemistry  
Yale University  
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Wasserman:

I read only the title of the paper "A Proposal for an Extension of the IUPAC 1957" by Eckroth, and then decided to return it without further examination for the following reasons:

1. Busy
2. For some weeks I have been trying to find time to revise drafts of a study of applications of topology to chemical graphs. At this state it would be awkward and mutually unfair to impose or permit private access to other contributions. This applies especially when the title is so provocative as to suggest it may not be accepted for publication.
3. You have the responsibility for the policy of the journal concerning this subject matter. I have had my own knocks from JACS on this score (note enclosure) but I now fully accept their views. Two issues should however be clearly understood and separated.
  - a. Nomenclature is now so bad that it invites an unlimited number of proposals for improvement. But standardization is even more important, and the avenue of submission to IUPAC and ACS committees is indeed the appropriate one.
  - b. Graph and matrix theory applicable to the systematics of structures. This has some scientific standing in its own right, quite apart from the standardization of nomenclature. If the manuscript makes any contribution in this field, this should certainly be published.

I would be interested to learn what your policy is on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

Enclosure: Reviewer's comments on "Classification of Polycyclic Systems as 'Polycenes'".

+ #120

WASSERMAN, H.H.